

Cuyahoga Valley National Park Volunteer Program

Building a Community of Park Stewards



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Brianna Machuga Receives Top Honors from the National Park Service and the National Park Foundation

Local Teen Honored at Washington, D.C. Ceremony

Brecksville, Ohio – Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) volunteer Brianna Machuga was honored at an evening ceremony on Thursday, February 21 in Washington, D.C. The National Park Service and the National Park Foundation presented the George and Helen Hartzog Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service-Youth Award to Brianna for her extraordinary efforts as a youth volunteer at CVNP.

Brianna Machuga was nominated by Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (CVSR) Volunteer Coordinator Sherri Lemley. Brianna volunteers as an actress, office assistant, and program assistant for youth and special event programs, which include Underground Railroad and the Polar Express™. In 2011, Brianna approached CVSR with an idea to collect winter gear for area homeless shelters from Polar Express™ volunteers and attendees. Brianna was able to deliver 140 coats and over 300 hats, gloves, and scarves to local shelters. Brianna is a resident of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio and is a junior at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School.

“We are very proud that Brianna Machuga was the recipient of the *national* Outstanding Volunteer Service-Youth Award. Her initiative to combine a holiday program with giving back to the community is inspiring. Brianna is a role model for area teens on how to engage and support the national park in their backyard,” said CVNP Superintendent Stan Austin. “Her award is a testimony to the continued support and growth of the volunteer program, which reached 5,900 volunteers last year. We are very pleased to have Brianna represent the park’s volunteer program in Washington.”

Photos and additional information about the Hartzog Awards are available www.nps.gov/news and <http://www.nps.gov/aboutus/hartzog-awards.htm>.

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About the Volunteers-in-Parks Program

Call: (330) 657-2296 • **E-mail:** volunteer@forcvnp.org
Fax: (330) 657-2381 • **Web:** conservancyforcvnp.org
Mail: 1403 W. Hines Hill Road, Peninsula, OH 44264
Location: 1571 Boston Mills Road, Peninsula

CONSERVANCY
for CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK



**Cuyahoga Valley
National Park**

CVNP's VIP program is co-managed by the National Park Service and the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Together, they accomplish park goals through mutually beneficial volunteer experiences and engage people in the park, building a community of park stewards. Currently more than 5,900 VIPs donate over 202,400 hours to provide the highest level of quality services to park visitors and to help protect America's heritage.

To join these volunteers in making a difference at CVNP, contact the volunteer office at volunteer@forcvnp.org, 330-657-2299, or visit conservancyforcvnp.org. Many opportunities are available and training is provided.

About the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park

The Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park is a non-profit organization created to engage public support for the park and provide services to enhance public use and enjoyment of the park. For more information about the Conservancy and its programs, visit www.conservancyforcvnp.org or call 330-657-2909.

About Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Cuyahoga Valley National Park encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. For more information visit www.nps.gov/cuva or call 330-657-2752.

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